

THE GREAT TRAGEDY

Just as the committee in charge of the San Francisco relief fund made public its final report of receipts and expenditures word came that the island of Sicily and the lower portion of the Italian peninsula had been ravaged by an earthquake of stupendous proportions.

When the destruction of San Francisco shocked and startled the world the generous people everywhere hastened to the rescue. Then came the earthquake tragedy in Valparaiso, and again the world contributed to the relief of the sufferers. Soon afterwards the island of Jamaica was rent and torn and the city of Kingston nearly demolished, and relief was provided. Then came the Italian disaster, one of the most destructive shocks in two centuries, and the great earthquake in the Mississippi valley, nothing as compared with the changing of the face of Italy this week. The population was small and there were no towns to be sacrificed. In Lisbon it was different than it was in Messina, the population being less and the buildings not of modern construction.

In 1693 Sicily had a shake, the records of which placed the loss of life at 90,000; in Yeddo, Japan, in 1703, the loss of life by an earthquake was placed at 200,000; in Java, in 1882, 170,000 lives were lost in the same way. The destruction of the old city of Martinique by the eruption of Mt. Pelée, preceded by an earthquake in 1902, involved the loss of only 20,000 persons. While the destruction of the towns and cities in Italy this week was followed by a terrible loss of life the record does not approach that made on other occasions, although the figures of the older tragedies may be taken as exaggerated.

As it stands now the island of Sicily has been subjected to the worst shake ever known in its long history, although as the reports indicate the greatest loss of life was the result of the tidal wave that followed—really more destructive than the shaking down of the towns and cities. It is related that the entire coast line of Sicily has been changed, and that the destruction in that way is tremendous. Lighthouses have been thrown down, the old rock of Scylla is reported as having been overturned, while river beds have been filled up and mountains leveled.

Nothing is in need and they must be cared for. Medical services are necessary to guard against disease and there is a great work to be done. Sicily has passed through an awful experience, but whatever man can do will be done to relieve the situation. The money loss is to be excessive, but time and patience and courage are to rebuild the towns, and the work will be taken up again.

The Italian earthquake is the most stupendous tragedy of the year which, it was hoped, was to make a new record in the way of a minimum showing of disaster. The peculiar formation of the country now ravaged by the earth's quiver and the tidal wave has always made it known as the home of tremors, yet there was always hope that the mishaps of the past were not to be repeated. It is a distressing story being told, but time will make all things equal, like the story of Martinique and San Francisco the memory of Sicily and Calabria will grow dim as other world tragedies come to the fore.

1909

The New Year ought to mean something in every life. It should be a step on the stair, lifting our feet a little higher. Some of us have not been living worthily, and we ought to leave the unworthiness behind us. Some of us have been discouraged, for the old year has been hard and many people have been depressed. We should not carry this feeling with us into the new year. Discouragement is not a good thing. If our hopes are to be realized we must be

also call us to a new sense of brotherhood and we should leave all meannesses, jealousies, resentments and contentions, and begin to love one another better. All the signs of the times point to the beginning of a new era of righteousness in the country. We are going to have better civil government, a government of justice, honesty and truth. The new year calls us to new patriotism, to love of country, that is pure, unselfish and honorable. Thus every inspiration of our lives should be toward higher, better things as we begin another year.

TRIAL LIST FOR JANUARY TERM

The trial list for the January term of the Superior Court, which opens on Monday next, which have been printed, show 16 new petitions for divorce since the last term of court. There are also 15 old divorce petitions on the list, which have never been decided and in 12 cases, where a decree nisi has been granted by the court, final decrees will be asked for during the term.

The list contains 80 cases for trial. One of the most important of these is the case of George B. Weidman vs. the B. & O. Railroad Co., an action brought by Mr. Weidman to recover damages for the loss of a large number of ducks and other fowls, which, he alleges, died as the result of eating blue stone, said to have been thrown out of the company's battery jars used in the signal system. About a year ago Mr. Weidman won a similar suit against the same company.

The following are the new divorce petitions: Lillian C. Shook vs. George W. Shook; Sarah H. Russell vs. James Russell; Lila May Pennington vs. James H. Pennington; Samuel H. Beck vs. Blanch E. Beck; James Council vs. Elizabeth O. Council; Edith L. Chase vs. Arthur W. Chase; Robert J. Turner vs. Josephine M. E. Turner; Inez Frampton vs. James T. Frampton; James E. Courney vs. Mary Eliza Courney; Clara H. Lemmon vs. William C. Lemmon; William E. Soloway vs. Iva Dell Soloway; John M. Wilkins vs. Hattie M. Wilkins; Joseph Somerville vs. Mamie Thomas Somerville; Martha J. Goltz vs. Robert S. Hoffman; Mamie Biddle vs. John M. Biddle.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG WOMEN

The Philadelphia School for Nurses, 2219 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa., offers Free Scholarships in Trained Nursing to young women in every State in the Union. The Scholarships cover the full two years' course, with room, board, uniforms, laundering, etc. included, and railroad fare paid to home town or district upon the completion of the course.

A home study course and a short resident course are also provided, which quickly open the door to opportunity and a noble service to humanity and at the same time acquire for themselves a substantial income from the best paid occupation now open to women; besides qualifying every student to deal with emergencies in the home that may mean the saving of a loved one's life.

RAISING ORANGES IN TEXAS

"The growing of oranges upon a commercial basis is marking a new epoch in the development of Bee County," said W. O. McCurdy, of Beeville. "Bee County is the home of the original Dugout orange. This tree, by the way, is now more than twenty-three years old; it is still bearing fruit, and it is the mother of more than 100,000 trees planted all the way from Florida to California. Oranges were grown until two years ago either for ornamental purposes or for the pleasure of having them, but now it is a business."

"Just a year or so ago an orange grower of California came to Beeville and after a thorough investigation of the situation set out about 30,000 trees. Others have gone into the business extensively, more than 100,000 trees having been set out last spring, some of which are bearing already."

ANNOUNCING STATIONS

A plan for designating stations on the Pennsylvania Railroad by numbering instead of names, as at present, and installing automatically operated indicators showing these numbers as the train approaches a station on each car in every passenger train, is under consideration by an informal committee of operating officers of the road. The plan was evolved by an employee of the Pennsylvania, and by him submitted to the general manager, who has turned it over to the committee. It is contended that if all stations were numbered instead of named the vast number of confusion resulting from misunderstanding of the conductor's call, which is a frequent occurrence on local trains making it a large number of stops, would be eliminated. The general plan proposes to arrange the different grand divisions each in "hundreds" sections, as, for instance, to have the main line from Philadelphia number its stations from 1 to 999, the Western grand division from 1000 to 1999, and the other grand divisions similarly. The minor divisions would be divided into hundreds.

HINSON-GREEN WEDDING

Miss Edna A. Green of Middletown, and Mr. Albert A. Hinson were joined together in the Holy Bonds of Matrimony, Dec. 24, 1908. The ceremony was performed by Rev. J. U. Kling. Mrs. Hinson is one of the organists of Dale's M. E. Church and is much respected and highly esteemed by all of her acquaintances. She comes from one of the oldest and thrifty colonies of the State.

DELAWARE'S CROP CONDITIONS

As Reported by the Department of Agriculture at the Present Time
According to information given out by the government in the December Crop Report of the Department of Agriculture, the condition of crops in Delaware at this time is as follows:

Wheat—Acreage sown in the fall of 1908, 100 per cent; acres, 118,000; condition December 1st, 99 per cent; 1907, 84 per cent; 10 year average, 93.
Rye—Acreage, 100 per cent; acres, 1,000; condition December 1st, 98; 1907, 88; 10 year average, 93.
The average yield per acre, in 10-year periods, of the important crops, was as follows:

Corn—1867 to 1876, 21.9 bushels to the acre; 1877 to 1886, 21.2; 1887 to 1896, 20.4; 1897 to 1906, 27.6.
Wheat—1867 to 1877, 11.7 bushels; 1877 to 1886, 12.1; 1887 to 1896, 12.7; 1897 to 1906, 15.8.
Oats—1867 to 1877, 17.7 bushels; 1877 to 1886, 22.3; 1887 to 1896, 20.5; 1897 to 1906, 22.2.

Barley—Eight years to 1876, 19.8 bushels, four years to 1886, 21.9.
Hay—1867 to 1876, 1.13 tons to the acre; 1877 to 1886, 1.02; 1887 to 1896, 1.14; 1897 to 1906, 1.30.
Potatoes—1867 to 1876, 77 bushels to the acre; 1877 to 1886, 71; 1887 to 1896, 63; 1897 to 1906, 70.

The condition on December 1st of the wheat crop sown this fall is estimated by the Bureau of Statistics as 55.3, as compared with an average condition on December 1st of the past ten years of 92.2 percent. No further reports upon the condition of the crop will be made until March. After March, reports will be made monthly until the crop is harvested. The report of the condition of the crop on December 1st indicates what the character of the season has been for planting and starting plant growth. The March report reflects the effects of the rigors of winter, with its abundance or lack of snow protection, and alternate freezing and thawing weather.

The closer we approach the time of harvest the more nearly do condition reports reflect or forecast the final outcome of the crop. On December 1st, however, the crop is about seven months away from harvest and many dangers intervene; so many in fact that the question has been raised: What value has the condition report on December 1st as giving any indication of the final outcome of the crop?

In 20 years the condition of the crop on December 1st has averaged 92.4 per cent; in the same 20 years the condition of July 1st (practically at harvest) has averaged 80.7 per cent, an average decline in the seven months of 11.7 points. Of the 20 years, the 10 highest reports for December 1st average 97 per cent; the 10 lowest average 87.7. The average condition on July 1st of the 10 crops which show the highest condition on December 1st was 83.8; the average condition on July 1st of the ten crops which show the lowest condition on December 1st was 77.5. Here is a striking parallel between the average condition on December 1st and the average condition July 1st, which is practically at harvest. Of the best 10 crops on December 1st, seven remained among the best 10 at harvest.

If the 20 years be grouped into five year periods, according to rank in condition on December 1st, the best five years on December 1st, with an average of 98.3, had an average condition on July 1st of 85.1; the second period, with an average of 95.7 on December 1st, had an average of 82.6 on July 1st; the third period had 90.9 and 74.2; the fourth period 84.6 and 80.7 per cent as the average condition on December 1st and July 1st, respectively.

The condition reports in December are based upon the entire area planted. The reports on July 1st are based upon the area remaining after deducting the amount abandoned in the spring. In the past 10 years an average of 9.1 per cent of the area planted has been abandoned before the time of harvest.

CHESAPEAKE CITY

Miss Minnie Bowers is visiting in Wilmington.

Miss Esther Banks is enjoying a visit in Baltimore.

Bennett Savin, of Wilmington, was a town visitor on Friday.

Mr. E. A. Beachamp is enjoying a stay at Petersburg, Va.

Ernest Homewood, of Dover, spent Friday with friends here.

Miss Ethel M. Ellison spent Sunday with Miss Ida Bonchelle.

Harry Sherman was a Germantown visitor Friday and Saturday.

Clarence Noland, of Wilmington, visited his mother last week.

Miss Nannie Wright, of Mt. St. Agnes College, is spending this week in town.

Miss Katharine Laws, of Baltimore, is visiting her parents, Dr. and Mrs. C. C. Laws.

Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Caldwell are visiting relatives at Liberty Grove and Marietta, Pa.

Mrs. Byron Bonchelle, Mrs. William Howard and Miss Edie Ferguson spent Monday at Cecilton.

THE COUNTY WORK HOUSE

Year's Report Submitted by the Trustees to the Levy Court

At the meeting of the Levy Court Tuesday morning George Kerr, president of the board of trustees of the New Castle County Workhouse, presented to the court the annual report of the board. It was explained that the report was given to the present Court to be presented to the new court, which comes in office next Tuesday, and was not read.

The report showed the workhouse to be in excellent condition. During last year 2,074 prisoners were received at the institution and 2,004 discharged. The largest number in custody at one time was 358 on September 3d, and the smallest number, 266, on March 15th. The average daily population was 305.

Continuing the report says: "While the earnings from the shop have not been as large as we would like, due largely to the depression in business throughout the country, yet we have met all our obligations and have paid off \$10,000 on the bonded indebtedness of the workhouse, making a total of \$35,000 that has been paid off."

During last year there was received from the Levy Court of New Castle county, \$36,814.23; Kent county, \$4,035.68; Sussex county, \$3,388.29, and from the United States government, \$400.40, making a total of \$44,638.60. There is still due from Sussex county \$691.19 and Kent county, \$413.00. There are now 35 prisoners in the workhouse from Kent county and 40 from Sussex county, 258 from New Castle county and four from the government, making a total of 337 on December 1st.

"During last year \$13,583.04 was received from the contractors for shop work; \$3,112.46 from the quarry and \$2,448.52 from the farm."

The report tells of the erection of a concrete cistern, costing \$231.60, which was necessary because of the increase of the water supply. The report also sets out in detail other improvements made during the year. In speaking of the stone quarried, the trustees suggest that the Levy Court form some plan whereby more of this stone can be used on the public roads.

The report gives a detailed account of all receipts and disbursements. On December 11th, 1907, there was \$11,288.30 in bank to the credit of the trustees and the receipts from all sources, including that balance, was \$73,233.09. The expenditures were \$60,870.60, leaving a balance of \$12,362.49 in bank on December 8th of last year. The detailed report of Joseph L. Carpenter, Jr., treasurer of the board, is certified to by Comptroller Chandler, who examined all the accounts.

In his report, Warden Leonard Crawford gives figures as to the population, which was included in the main report of the board of trustees. He tells of the work during the year and says it has progressed well in all departments. During the summer 3,000 feet of road was macadamized by the prisoners. The school for the prisoners was resumed on October 1st, and is held four evenings a week. The largest number of prisoners received in one month was 220 in August and the largest number discharged in one month was 252 in September. The population when the report was gotten up was made up of 114 white males, 204 black males, 4 white females and 15 black females. There have been 11,201 prisoners received since the workhouse was opened on November 4th, 1901. The daily cost of maintenance for the prisoners was 35 cents and for the officers 85 cents.

The report speaks of the good health of the inmates and states that no contagious disease was brought in during the year.

CHILDREN'S DAY AT CENTURY CLUB

A very delightful Club meeting was held on Tuesday afternoon. It being "Children's Day" a number of children were in attendance and took part in the program. The following enjoyable program was given:

Music, "Simple Confession," Thorne Helen McDowell.

Song, "Taffy," Helen M. Whorster Music, "Lenora Waltz," Leslie Shepherd.

Recitation, "As good as I can be," Field Charles A. Ritchie, Jr.

Music, "Butterfly," G. Merkle Miss Helen Sial Gros.

Reading, "Bird's Xmas Carol," Mrs. Q. J. Freeman.

Song, "Captain Willie Brown," Hattie Cochran.

Music, "Down the Bayou," DeKoven Laura Connelley.

Crackers and grape juice were served to the children, who thought they had a "lovely" time.

There will be no meeting of the Club next Tuesday. For good reasons, the executive committee has decided to dispense with Visitor's Night, and the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 12th.

GIVE BABE A MILLION

Unless some monarch dies to-morrow and leaves a throne behind, no child of royalty will receive as valuable a present as will the infant son of Leopold Myers, of London, grandson of General W. J. Palmer, the Colorado railroad builder. General Palmer has given the month-old boy \$1,000,000. The income from this is to be used for the child until he becomes of age, when he will receive the principal. The new millionaire was born in London while General Palmer was on a liner bound for Rome, and the news of the stock's visit to his daughter has had much to do in restoring General Palmer's health and spirits.

W. C. JONES

Meat Market!

Our Own Make Mince Meat, Sausage, Scrapple and Lard Dressed Poultry, Chicken Giblets

Put up by Richardson & Robbins, Dover

MEATS of all Kinds

At lowest possible prices, when quality is considered.

W. C. JONES, BROAD AND ANDERSON STREETS, Middletown, Delaware

FRUIT CAKES!

Are now Ready We sell Candies at wholesale prices. Examine our stock of candies in 1 and 5 lb. boxes before buying elsewhere.

Wholesale and Retail Having now completed our first year in the baking business, we feel that we are in a position to give our patrons better service in the future than in the past. Thanking you for past favors and soliciting your future patronage, we remain

Very truly, W. W. Allen & Son Middletown, Del.

M. BANNING,

DEALER IN FINE GROCERIES!

M. BANNING, East Main St. Middletown, Del.

WHAT ABOUT THAT JOB OF

Plumbing

You are going to have done this Summer?

Call and let me give you an estimate before you give your order. I am in a position to give you the very best materials in all branches of the plumbing trade. All work guaranteed to be satisfactory. I can do your

PLUMBING, STEAM FITTING, Pump and Well Work, Or furnish you with a "BUTLER" Wind Mill or Hay Track on short notice.

If you need anything in my line, a postal card will bring me to your home.

LONG DISTANCE PHONE NO. 70 JOHN B. SPICER, P. O. Box 81, MIDDLETOWN, DEL.

NOTICE TO TAX-PAYERS

—OF— APPOQUINIMINK HUNDRED!

The taxable residents of Appoquinimink Hundred, and all persons liable to pay tax in said Hundred, are hereby notified that the Taxes for the year 1908 are now due, and the undersigned Tax Collector for said Hundred, will be at the office of GEORGE M. D. HART, IN TOWNSEND, DEL., SATURDAYS, JANUARY 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 1908. From 1 to 5 o'clock, P. M.

EXTRACT FROM THE LAWS OF DELAWARE GOVERNING THE COLLECTION OF TAXES OF NEW CASTLE COUNTY: Tax bills can be obtained by making personal application to the Collector, or by sending written communication enclosing stamps. An abatement of 5 per centum will be allowed on all taxes paid during the month of August.

WILLIAM C. MONEY, Collector of Taxes for Appoquinimink Hundred

FOR SALE!

Two nice farms of 200 acres each, good buildings, on Bohemia River, other on Sassafras, will be sold cheap. Also 130 acres at Warwick and 76 acres and 47 acres at Mount Pleasant, and many other, can sell them on good terms.

G. W. INGRAM, Middletown, Del.

60 YEARS' EXPERIENCE

PATENTS

Anyone sending a sketch and description may quickly ascertain our opinion. Communications strictly confidential. HARRISON, on Patents, Trade Marks, Copyrights, etc., writes, free of charge, a full and complete report, without charge, in the Scientific American.

A handsomely illustrated weekly. Largest circulation of any scientific journal. Terms, \$3 a year, four months, \$1. Sold by all newsdealers. MUNN & Co., 361 Broadway, New York

FOR SALE!

Yoke of oxen or would exchange for young farm horse.

GEORGE L. TOWNSEND, Odessa, Del.

DOWN GO THE PRICES

OUR ANNUAL

January Clearance Sale!

BEGINS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2d, '09

The announcement is welcome news to the patrons of this store. You have all learned our Motto: "Never to carry any goods over from one season to the other." This is done regardless of cost—no matter what the loss may be. Advertised "reduction sales" are so common these days, but it is a mistaken idea to suppose that all reduction sales are alike.

The people of this vicinity have always found good merchandise at lower prices than elsewhere, and always found everything as represented, and advertised in this store. So come and be convinced, as you will find everything as advertised below. Come early before all these bargains go at such low prices. You will wonder how we can do it.

Millinery

Our Winter Millinery Season is nearly over. It was one of the largest and most successful seasons we ever had. There are about 100 trimmed and untrimmed hats left, which must be sold within the next two or three weeks at a mere song.

About 20 hats, the regular Sale Price price was \$10 to \$15, \$4.00 to \$5.00
20 hats, were \$7.50 to \$10. \$3.50
20 hats, were \$5 to \$7.50. \$2.50
25 hats, were \$4 to \$6. \$1.50

All flowers, feathers, wings, Ostrich plumes, reduced to one-half price.

Waists

Every Waist in our stock has been reduced 1/3 off the regular price. Value Sale Price 39c to \$5.00. 75c to \$3.00

Childrens' Sample Dresses

About 25 Childrens' Worsted Dresses, sizes 6 to 14 years. No two alike in the lot. All colors, different styles. Regular Price. Sale Price. \$2.98. \$1.50 \$4.00. \$1.98 \$5.00. \$2.50 Other dresses from 25c to \$1.50. Outing Flannel Petticoats and Night Gowns for ladies and children. Wrappers—All our \$1.25 and 98c Wrappers, to go during sale at 75c.

Furs

1-3 OFF THE REGULAR PRICE. Every Piece of Fur has been reduced and must be sold, no matter what the loss may be.

Quilts and Blankets

Regular Price. Sale Price \$1.50. \$1.00 2.00. 1.25 3.50 Quilts. 1.35 1.00 white & gray Blankets.65 2.50 " " " " 1.50 6.00 wool white & gray " 3.50 7.50 " " " " 5.00

Sheets, Pillow and Bolster Cases

50c Sheets. 39c. 65c " " " " 50c. 85c " " " " 59c. 15c Pillow cases. 10c. 25c Bolster cases. 19c.

MUSLIN UNDERWEAR

Undershirts. Night Gowns. Chemise. Drawers. Corset Covers. All Childrens Muslinwaer has been reduced.

Ladies' & Misses' Skirts

About 100 in the lot are broadcloth, Panama, serge, fancy mixture wool, in black, blue, brown, green, gray, garnet and stripes, all sizes.

Regular Price. Sale Price. \$3.00 Skirts. \$1.98 \$4.00 Skirts. \$2.50 \$5.00 Skirts. \$3.50 \$7.50 Skirts. \$5.00 10.00 Skirts. \$6.00

A. FOGEL,

Middletown, Delaware

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A handsomely illustrated weekly. Largest circulation of any scientific journal. Terms, \$3 a year, four months, \$1. Sold by all newsdealers. MUNN & Co., 361 Broadway, New York

FOR SALE!

Yoke of oxen or would exchange for young farm horse.

GEORGE L. TOWNSEND, Odessa, Del.

Tabulated Analyses of Commercial Fertilizers, November, 1908.

By DR. T. R. WOLF, State Chemist.

The valuations are based on the following figures: Ammonia, 16 cents per pound; Available Phosphoric Acid in Mixed Fertilizers, 5 1/2 cents per pound in Dissolved S. G. Rock, 4 1/2 cents per pound. Insoluble Phosphoric Acid in Mixed Fertilizer, 2 cents per pound; in Dissolved S. G. Rock, 1 cent per pound. Phosphoric Acid in Ground Bone, 4 cents per pound; Potash, 5 cents per pound.

	Name and Address of Manufacturer.	Where Sampled.	Minimum Guarantee.	Ammonia.	Available Phosphoric Acid.	Insoluble Phosphoric Acid.	Potash.	Valuation.
	L. O. Rogers, Frederica, Del.	Frederica.	1 1/2 - 5 - 1 1/2	0.92	11.00	1.02	3.38	15.94
	Farmers Preserving Co., Rising Sun, Del.	Rising Sun.	1 - 9 - 2 1/2	1.18	9.86	1.36	2.06	17.25
	L. M. Price, Smyrna, Del.	Smyrna.	1 - 9 - 3	0.89	8.94	0.93	3.06	16.19
	L. M. Price, Smyrna, Del.	Smyrna.	12 - 5 - 6	12.35	1.36	4.99	15.19	
	L. M. Price, Smyrna, Del.	Smyrna.	10 - 2 - 2	11.73	0.56	1.91		
	A. S. Woolley Co., Seaford, Del.	Seaford.	1 - 8 - 2	1.14	10.82	2.74		
	A. S. Woolley Co., Seaford, Del.	Seaford.	2 1/2 - 9 - 4	3.02	8.72	1.17	6.01	23.21
	J. E. Tyger Co., Philadelphia.	Smyrna.	8 - 8 - 5	8.73	1.12	4.42	15.19	
	J. E. Tyger Co., Philadelphia.	Smyrna.	2 - 9 - 2	2.01	8.64	1.30	15.18	
	The Armour Fertilizer Co., Baltimore.	Dover.	1/2 - 7 - 1	0.90	7.55	1.02	14.11	
	The Armour Fertilizer Works, Baltimore.	Baltimore.	12 - 5 - 6	12.00	2.30	4.94		
	The Armour Fertilizer Works, Baltimore.	Harrington.	1 - 8 - 2	1.13	8.07	0.73	22.71	
	The Armour Fertilizer Works, Baltimore.	Wyoming.	1 - 7 - 1	1.01	7.31	0.80	11.11	
	Peeries Fertilizer Co., Chestertown, Md.	Maryna.	12 - 5 - 6	11.89	0.50	1.03		
	Peeries Fertilizer Co., Chestertown, Md.	Maryna.	1 - 8 - 3	1.10	8.75	1.17		
	Davis & Sons Co., Baltimore.	Stockton.	2 - 9 - 2	1.14	10.82	2.74		
	American Agrl. Chem. Co., New York.	Bridgeville.	1 - 14 - 3	13.32	0.20			
	American Agrl. Chem. Co., New York.	Frankford.	14 - 14 - 1	13.61	0.10			
	American Agrl. Chem. Co., New York.	Stockley.	14 - 14 - 1	13.76	0.10			
	American Agrl. Chem. Co., New York.	Stewart.	14 - 14 - 1	13.76	0.10			
	American Agrl. Chem. Co., New York.	Stewart.	14 - 14 - 1	13.76	0.10			
	S. M. Hess & Bro., Philadelphia.	Lewes.	14 - 14 - 1	13.76	0.10			
	Patapago Guano Co., Baltimore.	Seaford.	11 - 5 - 5	11.73	0.56	1.91		
	Patapago Guano Co., Baltimore.	Seaford.	1 - 10 - 10	11.73	0.56	1.91		

TURNING A NEW LEAF

BY MANDA L. CROCKER

Mrs. Marcia Berrie had been mistress of the Shelly Farms for only a few short months; but long enough, after all, for every one in the neighborhood to have an opinion of John Berrie's second wife.

She dressed finer than his first wife did—most second wives do—she spent more hours at the piano, and seemed several degrees more aristocratic than the first Mrs. Berrie.

It was an honored custom, reaching back to the stouter branches of the ancestral tree, for the owner of the Farms to give a New Year's dinner to the countryside; and each guest was invited to come and "turn a new leaf for yearly luck."

Of course, it was the "firsts," and not the "seconds" or "thirds," as the shippers say, who enjoyed these annual feasts and, usually, they began several weeks before to plan "what to wear." This year it seemed a necessity to be a little more particular about the cut of gowns and width of trimmings, for the new Mrs. Berrie was a lady of means in her own right, and dressed elaborately.

We must make an impression, said Mrs. Wilton, decisively, and she must feel that our presence is an honor to the Farms. I intend to have a new silk; a regular dinner party dress.

And so the "firsts" planned to surpass all former efforts, for the sake of profound impression; therefore, by the middle of December a score of lovely new gowns were the pride of as many ambitious feminine owners.

The mistress of Shelly Farms was affable and gracious to all, and the tony "firsts" were just dying to display their rich costumes in her honor. But for some unaccountable reason the invitations were tardy.

Could it be possible that the second wife was one of those new women, who would, at one fell swoop, eliminate the annual dinner? And would John Berrie stand that?

In sheer desperation of suspense, Mrs. Goldwaite was delegated to call at the Farms, ostensibly to speak of a philanthropic movement, but really to scent the New Year festivities and overdue cards.

Mrs. Berrie received her visitor very courteously and pleasantly, and supported the philanthropic idea enthusiastically, even graciously accepting the presidency of the society when they should organize. But when the conversation drifted into holiday news the caller could not, by any tact, draw out the bride's plans concerning New Year's day.

Exasperated, Mrs. Goldwaite suddenly let go skrimishing and asked her, point blank, if the Farms would give annual dinner this year?

O, certainly, answered the new wife, her face lighting up with pleasure, husband and I have been planning for that sometime. The invitations are late, but Mr. Berrie could not help me until today, and, of course, I am not well enough acquainted to get the names alone. We shall send this week, however, and I shall enjoy the 'new leaf turning' with my neighbors exceedingly.

This information was what Mrs. Goldwaite had talked philanthropy for two full hours for, and she took her leave, feeling that she was a heroine of the first water. But Mrs. Berrie accompanied her caller to the front gate in her eagerness to talk more about the "movement."

It is to elevate the toilers, I understand, she said, and to get in touch with our poorer neighbors? Yes, answered Mrs. Goldwaite, hesitating to break up her luxurious New Year's dream by bumping against the intrusive fact that the washwomen and ditch diggers occupied the same planet together with the "firsts."

Yes, she repeated, and when we organize you will accept the presidency? and she got up an interested look, as good as the genuine.

Certainly, was the reply. I thank you for the honor, and Mrs. John Berrie pressed the caller's hand fervently.

The delegate was not very favorably influenced with the young wife's enthusiasm over the question, and the pressure of her hand chilled, rather than thrilled, her festive heart.

But one consoling thought ran through it all; they never would "organize." It was only a subterfuge to show out something more substantial.

Mrs. Goldwaite slipped along to the turning, where she met

Mrs. Wilton, who reined in her pointers to ask breathlessly: Did you find out?

To be sure, it takes me to find out, and she tossed her head in triumph. They will have the dinner as usual. But Mrs. Berrie, not being acquainted, could not write the invitations alone; and Mr. Berrie could not help her until today.

O, yes! cried Mrs. Wilton, that accounts for it all. Well, we are ready and will be delighted to help turn the new leaf this year, because of the sweet hostess.

She was wonderfully elated, though, over the philanthropic work, and Mrs. Goldwaite rolled up her eyes in mock seriousness. Both ladies giggled and clapped their hands, immensely amused at the adroitness of their "feint" and its success.

The expectant "firsts" were all agog for a few days, looking for invitations; but, strange to say, not one of them received the familiar square envelope with the Berrie coat-of-arms in the corner and things were once more fast assuming the mysterious.

But everything was made exceedingly plain, finally, by the boxum Mrs. Regis, washer woman for a trio of the immaculate set.

And it's me and mine who are going to have a fine dinner on New Year's day! she boasted to Mrs. Wilton on the next Monday morning, as she ran her broad hand through the steaming suds.

Some one is going to send you a nice basket! queried Mrs. Wilton, thinking at once of the benevolent president to be.

Naw, yer away off! laughed the woman of labor. We've an invitation to the New Year's dinner at Shelly Farms; got it in a fine cover with the Berrie army coat blazoned over the corner of it.

Why Mrs. Balinda Regis! exclaimed the astonished Mrs. Wilton, you are not joking me?

No, ma'am, I'm not, giving the handle of the wringer an emphatic yank; it's the Bible truth. And I was so tickled at what she wrote onto the gold-tinged card she sent me.

What was that? asked Mrs. Wilton, desperately, the awfulness of a philanthropic "movement" gripping her heartstrings.

Why, she writ that 'she and her husband would turn the new leaf themselves this time and invite the worthy poor to dine with them on New Year's day.'

And now, dropping her voice to one of pleasant interrogative, where be you going to dine, New Year's, ma'am?

I hardly know yet, answered Mrs. Wilton, truthfully; then she fled to the closet and studied the line, new dinner dress, with conflicting thoughts.

For a young chit from college to come lording it into their midst and make such unheard of snubbing plans in her endeavor to appear peculiar, was simply outrageous! The Shelly Farms' new leaf was perfectly abominable! Something would have to be done to offset this disgusting philanthropy.

By four o'clock that afternoon Mrs. Wilton had made the rounds of the insulted elite of the county; and a swell dinner-party had been arranged for, at Mrs. Goldwaite's, for three solid reasons.

First, to spite the new toiles; second, to soothe one another in their common grievance, and third, the Goldwaite cottage was so situated that they could easily see the coarse side of the "seconds"—and possibly the "thirds"—flow to the Farms.

Punctually at the appointed time the outraged upper current gathered at the appointed place to see the outrageous under current set toward the philanthropic president.

By three o'clock all the indignant but respectable people of the neighborhood had gone by in their Sunday best.

Onions and sauerkraut! drawled Mr. Wilton, as a German family passed on foot.

Our white necktie brigade, commented another "first," as the pastor of a poor church, a mile away, and the superintendent of its Sunday school, together with a dozen scholars, went by in a double sleigh. And the "firsts" rustled their silks and smiled in aristocratic contempt.

Before the Goldwaite party broke up, however, a messenger from the Farms bowed himself in their midst and out again, leaving the hostess looking suspiciously at a message in her hand, with the "army coat blazoned onto the corner," as Mrs. Regis would have said. She glanced timidly around the expectant cir-

cles and finally drew forth a daintily perfumed note and read:

A very happy New Year to all! It has occurred to us, dear people, that you may not have comprehended our motive in bidding our guests for the day. As we are all interested in philanthropic work, we will be understood when we say, the new leaf we turned is very timely and beautiful, and has made many hearts happy.

Husband and I turned the leaf suggested by Luke, the beloved physician. We knew you were all well able to return the compliment, and so we bade those who could not recompense us.

We extend greetings and desire that you all rejoice with us. Mr. and Mrs. John Berrie, Shelly Farms.

The "firsts" looked soberly at each other; the spirit of the note touched the good in them and the new dinner dresses were, for the time, forgotten.

Yes, they said, the whole neighborhood has enjoyed a Happy New Year to day. Surely it is a pleasant new leaf! But the philanthropic society has never been organized, although the prospective president is ready and waiting.

NEW BISHOP SHOWS APPROBATION
Rt. Rev. Frederick J. Kneaman, the new bishop of the Diocese of Delaware of the Protestant Episcopal Church, contributes his first letter to the churchmen of the diocese in the current issue of the Delaware Churchman, in Delaware which he says:

"It is not possible for your new bishop's first word in the Delaware Churchman to be anything but a word of thanks. Ever since his first visit to the diocese last June he has been the recipient of greetings and kindness from the people all over the State of cordial a character that it has been a great pleasure, as well as an apparently plain duty, to cast in his lot with Delawareans and become a 'Blue Hen's Chicken' by adoption."

The care of the Standing Committee and of the rector and vestry of Trinity Church, Wilmington, in arranging a beautiful and reverent consecration service; the pains taken by the committee to make Bishop-elect a more comfortable home for the bishop's family; the kindness of the ladies of St. John's, Wilmington, who put the chapel at Bishop-elect in perfect order, and the celebration of his 40th birthday in Georgetown, have been only the more obvious signs of a kindly spirit in all our people, who have been trying to reassure and encourage a newcomer confronting a difficult work. If his gratitude is genuine, he ought to show it by serving the church in Delaware with simple faithfulness for the rest of his days. So warm-hearted a people deserve the best sort of bishop. Whether they are to have anything of the sort remains to be seen.

It is necessary to add one word of appreciation of the parish receptions, which have been arranged by the rectors and vestries. The Forum of Prayer issued for use on the occasion of the bishop's first visitation, at the discretion of the clergy, has been used in all but one of the parishes thus far visited. There has been a pleasing variety in the arrangements made, and in every instance the reception services have been helpful to the bishop and apparently also to the congregations. The use of the service has appeared in its suggestion of the need of closer cooperation between the bishop and each rector and vestry, and its emphasis upon the pastoral character of a bishop's work.

In Wilmington and at other places in the diocese the new church year is to be ushered in by a week of prayer. The observance of this by Christian men all over the country has been urged by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, under whose auspices a series of special services has been arranged.

There could be no better preparation for a new year, and for a new chapter in our diocesan history. Prayer is the highest and most characteristic Christian act, and the spirit of prayer is the essence of true churchmanship. If the church is of any use whatever, it brings men in touch with God, and that contact means prayer. Moreover, united intercession common prayer, which our own church seeks especially to encourage, is the most effective means of teaching the meaning of Christianity. Nothing else can give so well the tone and temper which a true churchman ought to possess and display."

NEW COUNTY OFFICIALS
Next Tuesday the newly elected county officials will go into office and the old ones will retire. All the new officials have announced their appointments to their deputies and clerks.

The new officials elected are: Charles H. Lippincott, succeeding Harry Stafford as sheriff; Harry A. Brown, succeeding Winfield S. Quigley as clerk of the peace; and Herbert L. Rice, succeeding Frank L. Speakman as prothonotary. Robert M. Burns succeeds himself as receiver of taxes and county treasurer. Philomena Chandler also succeeds himself as comptroller.

The new Levy Court will also organize that day. It is composed of Harry W. Perkins, Samuel J. Denison, Isaac C. Elliott, William F. Taylor, Daniel Thompson, John W. Dayett, and James A. Buckson. The latter is the only Democrat in the body. It is said that Mr. Dayett will likely be the chairman of the new body.

Another Plan for Marcus G. Knowles, former minister of the United States to Roumania, Bulgaria and Serbia, was on Saturday appointed by Roosevelt to be envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Nicaragua. Mr. Knowles' ministerial residence will be at San Jose, Nicaragua is one of the most important of the Central American republics. The office pays \$10,000 a year, and a secretary of the legation is also provided. He succeeds William J. Merry, of California, as minister. The announcement of his appointment to a post nearer home is gratifying to many of Mr. Knowles' friends. Before he was appointed to Roumania he was considered for minister to Nicaragua.

WANT NEW LAW
NEW CASTLE, Del., Dec. 18, 1908.
DEAR SIR: In a "declaration of principles and aims" unanimously adopted by the National Educational Association at its convention in Cleveland last July, there is to be found this significant statement: "The public high schools should not be chiefly training schools for higher institutions, but should be adapted to the general needs, both intellectual and industrial, of their students and communities." This is an expression of a feeling that has been impressing itself upon our schools more and more in recent years. Our high schools are criticised for undertaking to prepare pupils for college, who have neither the means nor the inclination to go to college, and for failing to prepare them for anything else. A result is that a great number of pupils drop out of an institution which promises little as a definite preparation for the duties which early fall to their lot.

It is for the purpose of meeting the needs of a great number of our pupils by making the formal training of our high schools go hand in hand with that which counts towards the making of self-supporting citizens without the expense of going to other schools to get what can be given at home, that the President of New Castle Board of Education, in accordance with a resolution of said Board has appointed the undersigned committee to confer with the school authorities of the State with reference to a plan to ask the State to give additional financial assistance to any community desiring to extend the field of usefulness of its high school.

It is proposed that a bill be introduced at the next session of the Legislature, which shall have for its object the encouraging of manual training and commercial courses in our schools.

To carry out this plan an approved high school, our sister State of Maryland grants annually in addition to the regular appropriation, a sum of \$1,500 for the maintenance of a manual training department, and \$1,000 for the maintenance of a commercial course. New Jersey duplicates, up to \$5,000, whatever sum is raised by any school district for the maintenance of a manual training course but makes no special provision for commercial teaching.

We believe that the plan of asking the Legislature to help those who are willing to help themselves is the more desirable and we therefore propose that the bill mentioned shall have a provision for special assistance in one, or both, of the suggested courses, similar to the provision of the New Jersey School Law. This, we believe, will rid the proposition of the idea of paternalism and bring it home to the patrons of the public schools in all parts of our State.

Do you approve of the plan? If so, will you give it your support? We shall be glad to hear any objections you may have, or any suggestions you can offer towards its furtherance. Please let us hear from you, and soon!

Yours very respectfully,
J. EMMETT PHILLIPS,
H. V. HOLCOMB,
Wm. J. FERRIS,
Committee.

MR. HASTINGS IS SECRETARY
Governor-elect Simon S. Pennewill Monday announced his appointment of Deputy Attorney-General Daniel O. Hastings as secretary of state, and the appointment came as no surprise as it had been generally understood the past few days that Mr. Hastings was to be selected.

The selection of Mr. Hastings appears to give general satisfaction, and he is well fitted for the office and is favorably known from one end of the state to the other. Mr. Hastings, during the past four years, has been deputy attorney-general, having been appointed by Attorney-General Robert H. Richards. His term will expire this week.

At the Republican state convention in Dover, last summer, friends of Mr. Hastings made an effort to secure his nomination for attorney-general, but Frank Hall Davis was the successful nominee.

Under the law passed by the last Legislature, the office will become a salaried one after January 1st, the salary being \$4,000 a year in lieu of all fees that herebefore prevailed. The appointment will have to be confirmed by the Senate.

Mr. Hastings is 34 years of age and is a native of Somerset county, Md. He has been practicing law for seven years and studied under Herbert H. Ward.

SPONSOR FOR BATTLESHIP
To a daughter of Sussex county, falls the honor of being sponsor for the battleship Delaware, to be launched at Newport News, on February 1st, and the residents of Bridgeville, feel a pardonable pride in the fact that Miss Ann Penn will call, of that town, has been chosen sponsor by Governor Preston Lea.

Miss Cahill, who is only 18 years of age, is the daughter of Dr. Lawrence M. Cahill, of Bridgeville. Her mother, the wife of Dr. Cahill, was Miss Mollie Pennewill, a sister of Governor-elect, Simon S. Pennewill. The mother of Miss Cahill died several years ago, and Dr. Cahill has since been married to a Miss Layton, of Bridgeville.

Miss Cahill is a niece of Governor-elect Pennewill, also of Judge James Pennewill. She is a granddaughter of former Governor, William Cannon, of Delaware, a near relative of former Lieutenant Governor Philip L. Cannon, and a relative of the late General T. A. Tobert, of civil war fame.

The young woman who has been selected for this important task has not yet made her debut in society, but she is very popular. She is a graduate of the Powhatan College, in Virginia, and is very accomplished.

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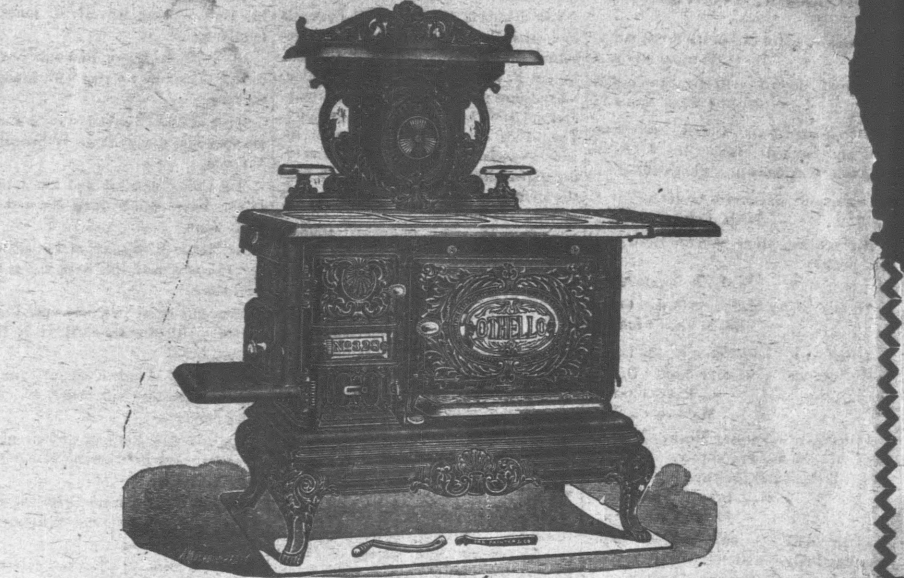
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